Sale of sick units of NTC

2199. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the outright sale of chronically sick units of the National Textiles Corporation Ltd;

(b) if so, whether bid packages have been prepared for Minerva Mills in Bangalore after the due diligence process; and

(c) whether the sale proceeds will be utilised exclusively for settling repayment debts of Minerva Mills and for final settlement of dues to employees including VRS benefits?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There is no such decision.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) BIFR approved Rehabilitation Schemes for sick subsidiaries of National Textile Corporation to provide for revival of 53 mills and closure of 66 unviable ones after giving VRS to the affected employees. These rehabilitation schemes are to be largely funded by sale proceeds of surplus assets. The sale proceeds are to be used for settlement of the dues of employees, including VRS benefits, servicing of bonds, repayment of secured/pressing creditors and modernisation expenses.

Closure of Jute Mills

2200. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many jute mills have been subjected to closure or lay off from the year 1998 to 2004 and the number of workers who lost jobs as a result thereof;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to revive these mills;

(c) whether it is a fact that the synthetic bags are being preferred to jute made bags for carrying foodgrains and other food materials;

(d) if so, whether such orders will be declared void soon; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to encourage use of jute industrial products?